



LOGOS is a mid-week, intergenerational & relational, after school program that provides opportunities for Christian education, worship, and fellowship for children and youth, from pre-kindergarten through the twelfth grade. As a comprehensive program, it provides an excellent opportunity for deep Christian formation.



# LOGOS

Ministry

Parent Handbook  
2018-2019

First Presbyterian Church

171 Market Street  
Lexington, KY 40507-1171

859.252.1919  
[www.fpclex.org](http://www.fpclex.org)

## **2018-2019 LOGOS Dates:**

### **Fall Semester:**

September 12- December 5

No LOGOS November 21 due to Thanksgiving Break

LOGOS Christmas Pageant: December 12

### **Winter/Spring Semester:**

January 9 – April 10

No LOGOS April 3 due to Spring Break

## **Children and youth will participate in**

### **Sunday Worship Services:**

September 30

October 28

December 9

February 3

March 3

April 14

## **First Presbyterian Church Staff**

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## That’s not all...

**Pre-School Music Class**—First Presbyterian Church offers a weekly music class to our three to five (Pre-K) year-old children. The class runs concurrently with the LOGOS program.

**Pastor’s Bible Study**—Mark or Caitlin lead a weekly Bible study studying the texts to be read in the upcoming Sunday’s worship service.

**Dinner** is available at designated tables in the dining Room to participants (and parents) in both of these offerings. The cost is \$3 for children and \$6 for adults.

### Schedule for 3-5 Year-Olds (Pre-K) & Bible Study Participants:

Time	3-PK	Time	Adult
4:30-4:45	Gather/Snack	4:30-5:30	Pastor’s Bible Study
4:45-5:25	Storytime & Activity		
5:25 -6:05	Preschool Music		
6:10-6:40	Family Time/ Dinner	6:10-6:40	Family Time/ Dinner
6:45-7:30	Recreation Play		

## Our Weekly Schedule

From 3:30-4:30, the Library and Youth rooms are available for children/youth to participate in a study hall. Free WiFi is available.

Time	Children & Youth
4:30-4:45	Gather/Snack
4:45-5:25	Recreation Play
5:25-6:05	Worship Skills (6-12) & Bible Study (K-1, 2-3, 4-5)
6:10-6:50	Family Time/Dinner
6:55-7:35	Worship Skills (K-1, 2-3, 4-5) & Bible Study (6-8, 9-12)

Dear Parents, Families and Volunteers,

We are excited to kick off our eighth year of the LOGOS weekly ministry at First Presbyterian Church. LOGOS is the Greek word for “word.” As the Gospel of John says “In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God and the WORD was God.” Each week the LOGOS ministry offers four parts: Bible study, worship skills, recreation, and family time. It is a commitment but one that has lasting results in the spiritual growth of your child or young person. We have a wonderful Bible study curriculum that promises to be fun and spiritually enriching for your child/children. Our promise to you is to ensure a nurturing environment that makes going to church fun!

This ministry only fully comes to fruition when we have volunteers. The opportunities range from serving as a weekly table parent sharing a meal with children to helping prepare and serve meals, washing dishes in the kitchen or sharing your talents in worship skills or recreation. Check out our [signup.com](http://signup.com) page to find an opportunity that meets the talents you have to share.

We look forward to another fabulous year and we so appreciate you for sharing your child(ren) with us!

Sincerely,

Kelly Nicol and Matthew Deffendall

## Ways to Help

Here are some of the ways for you to help out with *LOGOS*. We all have gifts to share, but we also recognize the need for you to share your gifts within a time frame that works for your family. We are flexible, so please note that schedules can be adjusted to suit individual needs.

### Area

### Time/Commitment

#### **Bible Study**

Co-teachers  
Substitute

Weekly, all sessions, 40 min. + prep  
As needed, 40 min.

#### **Family Time**

Table Parents  
Substitute T.P.

Weekly, all sessions, 6-7 pm  
As needed, 6-7 pm

#### **Worship Skills**

Co-leaders

Flexible, 40 minutes + prep per week,  
3-4 week blocks

#### **Recreation Play**

Leaders  
  
Helpers

1 hr+ prep/ week,  
3 week blocks  
1 hr/week, 4:30-5:30 pm

#### **Kitchen Ministry**

Kitchen Crew  
  
Kitchen Clean-Up

1.5 hrs, every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday  
4:45-6:15 pm  
1 hr/week, 6:30-7:30 pm

### **Arrival/Dismissal**

Each child/youth will enter for LOGOS through the Chapel entrance. Each child will be greeted as they enter the Chapel. All participants will check-in at the name tag station upon arrival. At dismissal, all children and youth will check-out and exit through the Mill Street Chapel doors.

### **Late Arrival / Early Dismissal**

Please notify Kelly Nicol (983.5983) or Matthew Deffendall (559.3151), if your child will **arrive late or leave early**. Any child who leaves before 7:30 p.m. must check out with a director.

### **Carpools**

Carpools are encouraged and should be arranged by parents. If you need help finding a carpool, please contact Matthew Deffendall, (559.3151).

### **Visitors**

Friends are welcome to attend LOGOS. Please call the office by noon on Tuesday if you will be bringing a guest so that we can plan accordingly and have a place set. Upon arrival, the visitor must be registered at the greeters table and pay a dinner fee of \$3.00.

### **Childcare**

Childcare is available for children too young to participate in the program while parents are participating in LOGOS.

### **Parent Participation**

Your presence and participation is vital to the success of LOGOS. Not only do we need volunteers to staff the many areas and activities, but your children will observe and imitate you as you demonstrate Christian behavior through your service and fellowship. Your enthusiasm and commitment to the program will be the foundation for your children's experience. Therefore, each family is required to contribute 12 hours of service to LOGOS each semester. In addition, at least one family member from families **new** to the LOGOS program must participate in the **Parent Connection Meeting**.

## **About the LOGOS Ministry**

The LOGOS ministry was founded over 40 years ago by four pastors who wanted something more for their youth. They wanted an activity in the middle of the week to help continue the good work that was being done in Sunday school. The program is currently in 3,500 churches in 30 different denominations across the country and in Canada, Russia and India.

### **What does LOGOS mean?**

LOGOS is the Greek word for "word." The writer of the Gospel of John uses it in the first chapter:

"In the beginning was the  
WORD, and the WORD was  
with God  
and the WORD was God."

The Word or **LOGOS** is representative of God's creative word, and the Word of God made flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. In still another intention, it is God's word through the Holy Scriptures that guides us through this life we share. This is the heart and soul of the LOGOS Ministry.

### **The Theology**

When we say that the LOGOS weekly ministry is theology, we are asserting that young people, children and adults, interacting with one another every week are involved in **experiencing**, not just hearing about: Who God is...What God is like...What God wants...What difference it makes...Who we are...What is the meaning and purpose of everything. The LOGOS weekly ministry is designed to be theology in action.

### **The System**

The LOGOS System is a way to bring together the biblical and theological foundations essential for excellence in Christian Nurture. At First Presbyterian, this LOGOS system means:

- Ministry with children and youth is a high priority.
- The Ministry Leadership Team takes an active role in the ministry with children and youth.

- The entire congregation becomes involved in the nurture of its children and youth as they share their gifts and talents.
- The relational dynamics of the LOGOS program supports and strengthens the other children and youth programs of the church as the whole nurturing ministry strives for excellence.

## The Commitment

The skeletal strength of LOGOS is provided by taking seriously several commitments that we call the “bones” of the LOGOS program. Without them, the program becomes weak and does not accomplish the goals that we have set for ourselves. We are committed to keeping these “bones” in place:

1. Everyone participate in all four parts every week.
2. Everyone makes an effort to attend congregational worship every Sunday.
3. The pastors will participate and provide leadership in the program.
4. An adult family member will make a commitment to attend the Parent Connection meeting (new families only) and to offer their gifts in service to the program.
5. The program will be offered midweek.
6. There will be financial participation by families.
7. People will be called to ministry according to their gifts.

## The Program

The four parts are designed to reflect the life of the early church as expressed in Acts 2:42:

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers.”*

“Apostles’ teaching” = Bible Study

“Fellowship” = Play Time

“Breaking of bread” = Meal Time

“Prayers” = Worship Skills

In the LOGOS weekly ministry these four elements combine to provide a contemporary spiritual context within which young people and adults are nurtured through the theology and practice of Christian relationships. It worked for the early church and it works today.

## Registration

All children and youth must be registered in order to participate in LOGOS. Children may be registered online at [www.fpclex.org/LOGOS](http://www.fpclex.org/LOGOS) or at a Parent Connection Meeting.

Registration is not complete until a parent or sponsoring adult has done the following:

- Attended the Parent Connection Meeting,
- Completed the registration form,
- Paid fees or set up a payment plan, and
- Made a commitment to share their gifts in the program.

## Fees

The registration fee helps to cover the cost of meals, curriculum, activity supplies and LOGOS membership & training expenses. ***No child will be denied the rich Christian experience of LOGOS for financial reasons.*** Confidential scholarship aid is available by contacting our Director of Children’s Ministry, Kelly Nicol (983.5983).

\$100/ semester for FPC members

\$150/ semester for non-members

Payment of all fees are made on the registration webpage. However, payment arrangements can be made upon request. Contact Kelly Nicol to make arrangements.

## Absences

If your child is going to be late or absent, please email or call Kelly Nicol (983.5983 or [knicol@fpclex.org](mailto:knicol@fpclex.org)). If they have not been notified about a child’s absences, a call will be made to the home to verify the absence.

## Discipline

There is only one rule in a LOGOS Ministry:

**Everyone is to treat everyone else as a Child of God. No one has the right to treat anyone as if they do not matter.**

All relationships in LOGOS are guided by this rule. We believe that nothing is more important to God than our relationships with others and with God.

The word Discipline comes from the word Disciple. Christian discipline is the teaching of self-control and how to respond as Jesus would respond to unacceptable behavior. Problems will be dealt with as quickly, creatively, lovingly and firmly as possible. Courtesy is expected at all times regardless of the part of the program in which the student is engaged.

## Safety at Church

We take very seriously the safety of every young person and adult who participate in any program of the church. If you have any questions about the safety of your child when he or she is on the premises of the church, please contact the Director of Children's Ministry or the Director of Youth & Families.

## Cell Phone Policy

All cell phones should remain in your child's backpack/purse until LOGOS is officially over and children/youth have been dismissed to their parents/guardians. If your child has his/her phone out during LOGOS, the disciplinary act will be for the adult in charge to confiscate the phone and give it to one of the Directors. At the end of LOGOS the phone will be returned to the parent.

## The four parts of the LOGOS weekly ministry model are:



**Bible Study** - Bible study is critical to the LOGOS weekly ministry because here we tell our common story and discover who we are. We learn about the stories of God's relationship with people and their relationships with one another. LOGOS strives to create biblically literate children who apply what they have learned to all aspects of their life. The curriculum has been carefully designed for age appropriateness. The lessons build on each other, giving our young people a solid comprehensive understanding of the Bible and how it applies to their lives.



**Worship Skills** - The Worship Skills portion of the weekly ministry provides time to learn about worship and to prepare for regular participation in worship. Through singing, instrumentals, drama, and prayer, young people become an integral part of worship as it becomes an integral part of their lives.

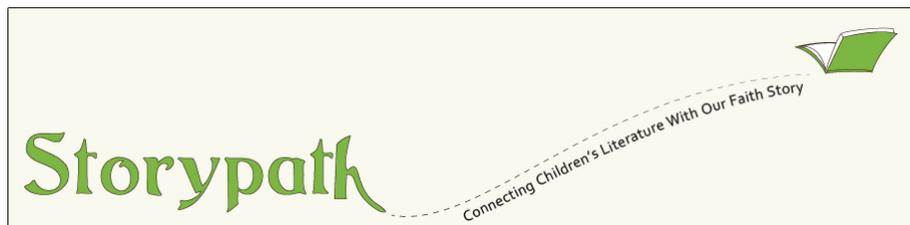


**Recreation Play** - Part of what it means to be created in the image of God is having the capacity to give and receive personal revelation. One of the times in which self-revelation takes place is when we play together. Recreation Play provides the opportunity for many members of the congregation to come and share their hobbies, talents and special interests with the young people. In doing so, revelation takes place and relationships are formed.



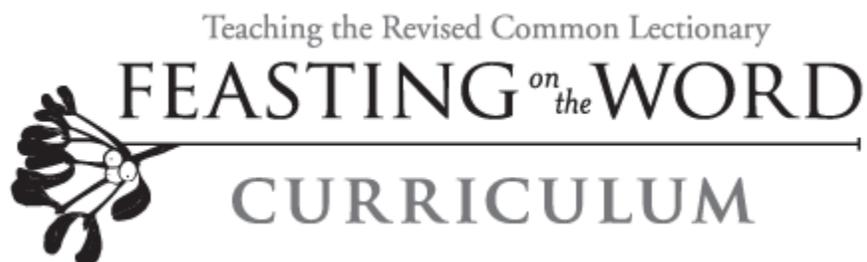
**Family Time**—provides a joyous, intergenerational celebration over a shared meal as we experience being part of the family of God. Youth and children are assigned to tables along with one or two adults who act as "table parents." The group around the table becomes a family as they share meals and fun together week after week. Food is served family style. Conversation is purposeful. Life is celebrated!

## Bible Study Courses



### Preschool: Bible Story & Activity

Each week our youngest participants will read a Storybook and participate in a craft or activity related to our Bible lectionary readings of the week with our Story time leaders.



### Grades K-5 & 6-8: Feasting on the Word

This year we will again be using the Feasting on the Word Curriculum for grades K-5 & 6-8. Feasting on the Word is a lectionary-based curriculum that provides intentional connections between education and worship. This curriculum begins with a solid scriptural and theological base for leaders and invites leaders and learners deeper into the rhythm of the church year. It utilizes a common Bible passage for all learners, making it easy for families to learn and live out their faith together.

Grades 9-12 – TBD

## The Importance of Family Members

No child is ever expected to stand alone in their spiritual development. The most powerful influence on the young person is the family. Though LOGOS is an integral part of the Christian Education and Nurture system of this church, it works because you are committed to the faith development of the young people in our congregation and our community.

It is expected that at least one adult from every family (this includes extended family members) with a child registered will support their young person and the LOGOS Ministry by:

- Facilitating and encouraging the regular attendance of your children in the weekly program, as well as worship and Church School on Sunday morning.
- Identifying your gifts and using them to participate in LOGOS on a regular basis.
- Paying a nominal fee that helps the church cover the costs of the program.
- Praying for individual young people and adults in the program. Prayer is essential and central to LOGOS. Family members are encouraged to pray daily for those participating in LOGOS.

In some situations, there is not an adult family member who can assume these commitments. In such cases we ask the family if a member of the congregation may take on the commitment and responsibilities related to registration and participation in the program.

Children and youth "catch" the Christian faith by entering into relationships with adults who live their Christian faith and who treat every person as a child of God. Whether you are leading a game, washing dishes, parenting a table, or driving a carpool, you are demonstrating to children in LOGOS that you love them, and you want them to know God and develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. They will know by your participation that you believe LOGOS should be a high priority for them.